



U.S. CIVILIAN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Cathleen Campbell's Remarks

Introduction

- Good afternoon, I am **Cathleen Campbell**, president and CEO of the **U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF)**.
- First, I would like to thank the **Members of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus** for organizing this event and in particular, **Representative Marcy Kaptur** for asking the CRDF to help develop this panel addressing the **long-term radiological effects on health, the environment and agriculture**.
- Though the Chernobyl tragedy is two decades past, its effect on the minds, bodies and world remains, as the many articles, studies, and commentary on the 20th anniversary has demonstrated.
- Before I introduce the distinguished panel, I would like to say a little about CRDF and our work.
- CRDF was established by Congress in 1992 as a private, non-government organization to facilitate scientific exchange between the U.S. and nations of the former Soviet Union. Our grants and activities support Eurasian science in the critical transition period by providing alternatives to emigration, establishing pathways to commercialization, reinforcing higher education; and by providing non-military R&D opportunities for several thousand former weapons researchers. CRDF is now expanding geographically to other countries and regions where its unique expertise can help advance world peace and prosperity.
- CRDF takes great pride that it has also supported projects designed to provide tools for Chernobyl's safe rehabilitation, and supported research to ameliorate the suffering of the many victims of the Chernobyl accident.
- Building upon this knowledge, we are also supporting trilateral research involving Ukrainian and U.S. scientists with their Iraqi counterparts. Bridging the knowledge gained in Chornobyl, these researchers are characterizing and identifying the effects of uranium leakage at the Al Tuwaitha nuclear facility. Dr. Chesser, on the panel today, is one of the project's lead researchers.
- Please take a copy of the CRDF packet which highlights our research and provides more background about the CRDF.
- We know that many views still exist regarding radiological and health impacts of this catastrophe. I personally believe that while there are disagreements regarding the impact of Chernobyl, there is clearly a need for more research to fully understand the impact of this horrific event.